(c) whether such farming is also proposed to be started in the backward regions of India *i.e.* Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Orissa, etc., to improve their economy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The Government of Rajasthan is planning to undertake Olive cultivation in agricultural farms in Rajasthan in collaboration with Israeli firms. For this purpose, Government of Rajasthan has established 'Rajasthan Olive Cultivation Limited' (ROCL), a company registered under Companies Act, 1956, under public-private partnership with M/s Plastro Plasson Industries India Limited, Pune and M/s Indolive of Israel, with the involvement of Rajasthan State Agricultural Marketing Board. In order to assess the technical feasibility and economic viability of Olive cultivation in Rajasthan, test plantation of Olive crop is proposed to be taken in an area of 30 hectares each in different Government Agricultural Farms at seven locations in different agro-climatic regions of Rajasthan.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

Compensation to farmers of Kharif

2622. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state whether Government are considering the request of Rajasthan regarding release of balance share of Rs. 26.13 crores for payment of compensation to affected farmers of Kharif, 2005 under NAIS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): All the admissible claims of Rajasthan for Kharif 2005 reason under National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) have already been settled by the Implementing Agency and no Central Government share is pending in this regard.

Soil testing

†2623. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that soil testing has been done on the whole cultivable land of the country which is being used for cultivation or not being used and whether the results have been informed to the State Governments and farmers;

(b) whether the Central Government agree that soil testing is a continuous process and such tests should be conducted after certain intervals; and

(c) whether Government would consider to provide assistance to State Governments for this purpose under Centrally sponsored scheme?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.